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FEBRUARY MEETING, 1889.

THE stated meeting of the Society took place on the 14th instant, President ELLIS being in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read, and the Librarian made his monthly statement.

Dr. DEANE said, in behalf of the committee appointed at the last meeting, that he had examined several volumes of manuscripts, and wished further time in which to make a report.

Mr. R. C. WINTHROP, Jr., spoke as follows : —

Mr. President, — The communication which until recently I had hoped to make to the Society this afternoon was of a manuscript from the Winthrop Papers which has suffered so much from damp that no one had ever attempted to decipher it, except to ascertain that it bore neither indorsement, date, nor signature. I attacked it with a magnifying-glass and got far enough along to make it clear that it was a contemporary copy of a speech delivered in the English Parliament at some time in the year 1680, during one of those exciting discussions which occurred on the proposal to exclude the Duke of York, afterwards James II., from the succession to the throne. I could not at first find this particular speech in any collection of Parliamentary debates or in any of the numerous volumes which treat of that period, and, being led to hope that by some lucky chance I had got hold of something new, I persevered until I had deciphered and transcribed the whole of it; but, to my chagrin, I then discovered that it was a speech of that famous statesman, the first Earl of Shaftesbury, which he himself had caused to be printed. My labor was thus in vain, and I only allude to it now for two reasons: first, as a passing illustration of the pitfalls which beset the path of the student of colonial history in dealing with what, at first sight, appears to be original material; and second, as an additional evidence of the pains taken by our ancestors here in New England to obtain accurate information of what was going on in the mother country. They had not the advantage of

daily newspapers, or of Atlantic cables, or of paid professional interviewers, or of the instructive visits of omniscient professors from foreign Universities; but they had friends on the spot who evidently took a great deal of trouble to keep them supplied with *facts*. Take, for instance, this speech on which, as it has turned out, I wasted so much time. It was obviously copied out at length soon after delivery, sent over here without waiting for it to be published; and the well-thumbed condition of the paper shows it must have been freely circulated. Now, if this speech — I mean, of course, a speech of equal public importance by an equally eminent man — had been delivered in our own day, we all know what would have happened. A short, hurried abstract of it, probably containing errors and important omissions, and not improbably garbled by some vindictive foreign-correspondent of opposite political opinions, would have been sent by cable, to form within twelve hours the subject of turgid eulogy or indiscriminating denunciation in the leading columns of the press, and to mould insensibly the appreciation of nine tenths of the best educated persons amongst us. When the speech itself came to hand ten days later, the subject would have lost much of its interest, and no one would have leisure or inclination to read it. It is a well-known fact that, with the exception of a few elderly valetudinarians who frequent the reading-rooms of our large libraries, hardly any one nowadays finds time to peruse the *ipsissima verba* of a European statesman, not even if he be so illustrious a man as Prince Bismarck or Mr. Gladstone. It may sound like a rash assertion, but I believe it to be one that can be substantiated, that, proportionately to the very great difference in population and in facility of communication, there existed in New England at the time this manuscript was sent over, more than two hundred years ago, a more exact and accurate acquaintance with contemporary European politics than exists here at present, with all our boasted education.

To turn to another subject, in a communication which I made to the Society in November, 1884, I took occasion to describe a series of letters addressed to various members of the Winthrop family, between the years 1653 and 1683, by various members of the family of Sylvester, generally known

as the Sylvesters of Shelter Island, and I intimated that I might furnish extracts from them for the Proceedings. I decided not to do this at that time, however, because I found that Professor Horsford, of Cambridge, at whose request I had had the letters copied, desired to print the whole of them in a volume of biography upon which he was then engaged, and it did not seem to me that they were any of them of sufficient importance to be printed twice. Professor Horsford's mind, however, soon after became engrossed by loftier themes, and the historical researches he had begun by applying to comparatively humble Puritans and Quakers of the seventeenth century became diverted to the heroic Vikings and romantic Sagas of the tenth and eleventh; so that instead of receiving from him, as I expected, a volume of colonial biography, containing, among other things, these Sylvester letters, I found myself the fortunate possessor of a large-paper copy of his "Discovery of America by the Northmen." He tells me that the first-named work is still in an early stage of preparation and may never be completed. It has therefore been suggested to me by several persons who are interested in these letters, to carry out my original purpose of submitting them to the Publishing Committee, which I am now about to do, and I will leave it to them to print as much or as little of them as they may see fit.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER¹ TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

IN SHELTER ISLAND, y^e 8th of Aug^r 1653.

M^r JOHN WINTROP,

MOST HONNORED S^r. — With my cordiall respeckts I humbly salute both yⁿ & your Lady. S^r if we had not bin taken by contrarye winds I should have made bould to give yⁿ a visett before my comminge home, and havinge this oportunitie I have made bould to trouble yⁿ wth a line. For news I refer yⁿ alltogether unto M^r Bruster, whome is y^e last that is come from Engl^d; but by y^e next wee shall heare more at large about y^e change of Gouem^t. It is generallie supposed that it will content y^e Commonalltie more then if y^e Parliam^t had continued. The Lord grant that them in p^t powre may remidie what hath bin amis in

¹ The brothers Nathaniel, Constant, Giles, and Joshua Sylvester were English merchants who became Quakers. Two of them acquired the estate of Shelter Island, at the east end of Long Island, as early as 1651. Nathaniel Sylvester died there in 1680, leaving by his wife, Griselda Brinley, a number of children, from whom there are many descendants. — Eds.

y^e Parl^t and not fall in the same evels, in looking more for selfe then any thing els that may tend to y^e good of y^e Commonwealthe. Worthey S^r I should be very glad if it might be my happines once to see you here on our small spot of ground. I have bespoke a bote of 3 tun to be made in y^e Bay, w^{ch} when I have I shall make bould to waite on you. S^r I render you many humble thancks for your manifold favours reseaved from you at my beinge with yⁿ; since w^{ch} it hath pleased God to change my condit^o by mariage, in w^{ch}, praysed be His name, I finde my selfe very happie, and I hope in God wee may be a comfort unto each other. S^r if in any thing I may become servisable unto yⁿ, I humblie desire you will be pleased to make use of me, and yⁿ will much ad unto your many favors, of w^{ch} yⁿ haue made me very sensible; and if I ware in a pres^t capacitie, my utmost indeavor should be to testifie my readines. S^r I shall not at pres^t trouble you any further, only with my wive's respeckts unto y^{or} selfe & lady, I humbly make bould to take my leave; wth all subscribinge of my selfe I remain, Most Honnor^d S^r

Yo^r very much oblig^d & obsarv^t sarv^t to command,

NATHANIELL SILVESTER.

S^r be pleased to honn^r me wth y^e conveyence of y^e inclosed to Herford.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To y^e Wors^{pp} John Winthrop Esq^r, these pres^t, in Pequit.

IN SHELTER ISLANDE, y^e 15th of March 1654.

MOST HONNORED S^r,—With my cordiall respeckts I make bould to salute both you and M^r Winthrop. S^r this opertunitie presentinge by Onkus, I have made bould to trouble yⁿ with y^e inclosed vnto M^r Broughton, w^{ch} my humble request is yⁿ will be pleas^d to send forward p^r the verie first opertunitie and with one w^{ch} may be carfull of the deliuerie. Manie of my letters of late are not cume to hand, and this letter is of more then ordenarie consequence. S^r p^r Good^m Parker, whome transported me for Roade Isl^t when I was with yⁿ, I made bould to trouble y^e with a letter in w^{ch} was inclos^d one for my brother conserninge the sawed pipe-staves, w^{ch} s^d letter my desire was might be sent to Giles Hamlin, he then layinge att y^e river's mouth. But by my brother's in answe^r of severⁿ of later date, he gives me to understand that he reseived not any by Giles Hamlin, at which I sumewhat wond^r, in cause yⁿ sent the letter before he was gone. If he was gone and the letter remaininge with yⁿ, my desire is yⁿ will send it with y^e inclosed to M^r Broughton. S^r I wonder I have not heard one word conserninge

the pipe-staue desinge; I was in hope sumethinge might be dune, w^{ch} if made, I would come over and furnish the people with sune commodities, for I expect the ship suddenly with salt and English goods. I have here in readines 300 tunnes, and my desire is to have a p^rsell from yo^r towne against the next ship, which I hope may be easily acomplish^d. S^r my humble desire is y^u will be pleas^d to honn^r me with a line aboute the premises. So, cravunge your excuse, I shall make bould humbly to take my leave, withall subscribinge of my selfe with an indeauer ever to remaine, Most Honnor^d S^r,

Y^{or} most humble & obsearvant faithfull sarv^{tt},

NATHANIELL SILVESTER.

S^r if no opertunitie might pres^t in a week's time, my humble request is y^u will heire an Expres, and I shall indeavor with thanckfulnes to repaye you.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To y^e Wors^{pp} John Winthrop Esq^r these pres^t in Pequit.

ROADE ISLANDE, 27th of July 1654.

M^r JOHN WINTHROP, — Most Honnor^d S^r & my ev^r esteemed Friende, Sal^t. S^r here inclosed I have made bould to send a letter unto my brother and another unto M^r Maygatt, w^{ch} I humbly crave may have convince wth the verie first opertunitie. S^r in that to my brother I have advised him aboute sawne pipe-staves, and I haue advised him that, if posible, y^u would send him a sample p^r Giles Hamlin, w^{ch} if not by him will be by via Boston. My desire is you would honn^r Coll^o Midleton & my brother with a line aboute y^e premises w^{ch} may give incoregem^t. It^s my harttie desire there may be a trade betwixt us. S^r my desire is you will be mindfull in procuring some staves to be made by sune of the towne against next yeare; theire pay shall be to theire full contentm^t. If once you treat with them you will be able to advise me upon my return to you at Pequit, w^{ch} hope shal be with all expeditⁿ. In y^e meane while, S^r if I may prove servisable unto you in Boston, honnor me with y^{or} comm^ds. S^r I shall not further inlarge, only with my harttie thancks for y^{or} last and former manifould courtesies, I shall make bould, with my cordiall respekt unto your selfe & Lady, to take my humble leave & to subscribe my selfe, Most Honnored S^r

Yo^r ev^r faithf^{tt} & obsarv^t sarv^t,

NATHANIELL SILVESTER.

S^r if y^u thinck fitting to advise M^r Maygatt with a word about the goodn^s of the cattle, it would not doe amis for his incoregm^t. It con-

sernes me much to knowe what he will doe in it, before I goe from Boston again. S^r be pleased to pres^t my kinde respeckts vnto M^r Lake. My brother Coddington pres^t his kinde respeckt to you. *Vale.*

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To y^e Wors^{pp} John Winthrop Esq^r these pres^t, in Pequitt. Pr Mr Giles Silvester.

IN SHELTER ISLANDE, y^e 10th of 8ber 1654.

MOST HONNORED S^r, — After my hartie thancks for your last courtesies, I have made bould by y^e bearer, my brother, to salute both you and M^r Winthrop by these lines, w^{ch} are likewise to give y^u notice th^t I have bought y^e cattle of M^r Russells on your Islande, for w^{ch} I have sent his note, and would willingly have them transported out of hand, if John Packer hath no other ingagem^t upon him. And the sooner it is dune the better, by reason y^e yeare is passinge away. I hope he will use me favorable for the transportatⁿ, it being a good quantitie together, and in regard of his and Stallin's prom^t to me when I was on your Island. S^r this beinge all to inboulden my selfe, I shall, with my most cordiall respeckts, take my leave, committ^t both y^u & yo^r to God's protection, and withall subscribing my selfe, Most Honnored S^r

Yo^r most oblig^d & observ^t sarv^t att comm^d,

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To y^e Wors^{pp} John Winthrop Esq^r these pres^t, in Pequitt.

IN SHELTER ISLANDE, y^e 7th of April 1655.

MOST HONNORED S^r, — My humble respeckts salute you. S^r your courtious lines bearing date y^e 2^d of this instant I have reseived, by w^{ch} I vnderstande that y^u did not reseive myne by Oncus before y^e 30th past, w^{ch} troubles me not a little in regard my letters ware of greater consiquence then ordenarie. His promis was great he would dd^r them to y^u the verie same day he gott ov^r, and his passage from hence could not be long. Hereafter I shall reley on him, if occation should pres^t, accordingly. I wonder much M^r Clark did not returne my letter in cause he reseiv^d it after M^r Hamlin's settinge sayle, but sume people little conseder what lett^r may conserne. I should be glad it might

cume to hand. I did in part incorege my brother that a good quantitie of pipe-staves might be procured at Pequit, but by yo^u I find no great incoregm^t; neither can I expect it where mens busenes are so great. S^r I have againe writen vnto my brother consarning sawed pipe-staves, which if it wil doe accordinge unto o^r form^r discours, and your minde not altered, I thinck it would cause a good trade to your towne. When I reseive an answere I shall make bould to advise yⁿ with what he shall write. S^r if any would fall upon the desinge in makinge pipe-staves for y^e next yeare, my desire would be to have such quantities as should be agreed on in June come twelve months, to which is a great while, and in cause mens occations ware not over great, that they might after harvest goe aboute makinge of them till March next without much hinder, or unles such a sadd winter should follow that w^{ch} is past. I little thought to have founde such weath^r in these parts. If it was so in Verginia, it came verie much unexpected, they being used to moderate winters. The difference of that place and this I haue founde verie great, but generallie it is more unhelthie than N: England. The Lord be prayسد, we haue in these parts generallie injoyed our helths, and my hopes are it hath bin so with yⁿ, seeinge no news to y^e contrarie. S^r here inclosed I make bould to send another packett for M^r Broughton, with an inclosed unto my brother, w^{ch} I most humbly crave may haue conveience p^r the verie first. S^r it is my humble request you will be pleased favoir me with excuse in makinge thus bould with yⁿ; my remotenes and y^e nessesitie makes me more unsivell than otherwise I durst p^rsume to be, which I crave yⁿ will be pleased to consid^r, in w^{ch} yⁿ will add much vntoe yo^r vnwearied courtesies bestowed on him whom with humble thanckes makes bould to take his leave, and to subscribe himselfe, Most Honored S^r:

Y^{or} ever obliged & observ^{tt} sarv^{tt},

NATHANIEL SILVESTER.

S^r My wife and selfe offer o^r due respektts unto your selfe & desire yⁿ will be pleas^d to pres^t y^e same unto M^r Winthrop. My brother Giles pres^s his humble servis. *Vale.*

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To y^e Worsp^{ll} John Winthrop Esqr. these p^rs^t, in Pequitt.

IN SHELTER ISLnd, y^e 6th of 8br., 1655.

MOST HONNORED S^r,—My humble respektts salute yⁿ S^r y^e occasion of making bould with yⁿ at present is by reason of y^e present

distemp^r of my yongest child, w^{ch} is taken with an extream stoppige in y^e nose, in so much as that it is not able to fetch its breth through y^e nostrils, w^{ch} dooth disenable y^e poore infant to suck, and is not able to eate without great payne, w^{ch} causes the child to falle away exceedingly; and beinge ignorant in givinge of it any thing w^{ch} may cause comfort unto y^e child I have made bould humbly to crave your advise, with such means as y^u in your discretion may think most fitting. Or greef is great to see the child lay in y^e sadd condition w^{ch} it doeth, and heer wee are quite out of y^e waye of help. Wherefor S^r I hope y^u will be pleased to excuse my forwardnes in makinge bould with y^u. S^r the child is just towe month ould; when it was first borne it was judged to be in good helth by most, but 3 days after it was taken with sore eyes, w^{ch} rune exceedingly, w^{ch} now is over; and the stoppige of y^e nose doth continue, so as that we fear y^e child may be suddenley strangled, if no means used suddenly. S^r if y^u please to send me yo^r advise or any means for y^e child, my desire is y^u will send it by M^r John Yonge, whome will be att your towne towe or three dayes hense; and in so doinge S^r y^u exceedingly add unto your manifould cortesies allredie reseived. S^r by Ralph Parker I was informed that y^u had an Irish wooman w^{ch} y^u would willingly part withall; if so, and shee good for to doe any busenes aboute y^e house, I will be your chapman if y^u pleas to lett me have her resonable, and my indeauor shall be to make you such paym^t as may content y^u. S^r be pleased to advise me a word or towe aboute y^e same, that so I may know your mynde; for if y^u will part wth her & shee fitt for any thinge, I would have her before winter. Nott els att pres^t to trouble y^u. I shall make bould to crave y^or excus and in subscrib^e my selfe, most Honnored S^r:

Yo^r most faithf^l & obsarv^{tt} sarv^{tt} to com^d,

NATHANIELL SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

For the hands of his indeered and truly beloved frind: John Winthrop, these. Att Harfordt or elsewhere.

BARBADOS, this 29th of y^e $\frac{3}{m}$. 1658.

JOHN WINTHROP:—In that which is in mortall doe I most deerly salut thee, and my love and life from the pure fountaine of life doth freely flowe unto thee, my deer frind. My earnest desiers to my heavenly father are for thee, that thou maist be preserved and kept free from the enbrewinge of thy hands in the blood of the deer sarvants of the Lord, whose cryes are heard and shall not goe unpunished.

If thy eye be with the wise man's in his head, w^{ch} head is Christ, then wilt thou be inlightned by it, and stand a wittnes with his Saints for the Lord, yea, and to the Lord, against all such appearances as either would rise, or is risen, to drowne the man child, to quench his spirit, to darken his light, or to deforme his image. Which if thou abideth faithfull to, and steedfast towards God and his truth, this knowe: that thy reward is sure, and thy peace in so doinge can no man take away; but the crowne which is laid up in store for us shall be received. So, in the name and power of the Lord God, my deer frind, goe on as thou hath begune, that thou may finish thy testimony in faithfullnes, that so thou maist retourne with the Ransomed One, and with the songs of Sion and everlasting rejoycinge. Deer frind, since my arivall here have inquired conserninge the stone which is sawed here and find them altogether unfitt for thy use; they will not beare the fire of our furnaces, much les a blast. Neither is there any stone in this contrey as I cann hear of, but such as will burne to lime. The stone we use for our furnises comes from England. I could send thee a barrell of this contry marll, but at present there is no shipinge belonginge to our parts. It is feared that Giles Hamline hath either mist the Island, or els to be foundert in the sea. I am at present going to take shipinge for England, and by reason of my brother Peter Silvester's parture out of the body I think my stay shall be there some time, to sett things in order and to doe what he did in way of a marchant; unles in obedience to my father, when called forth, I shall leave it to another; for whatever I doe, or undertake, it is with this promise: to stand singall to my God and to doe His will in all things. If I meet with thy sone in England, shall acquaint him howe it was with thee and thy famelie, accordinge to what Amos Richesson acquainted me with when I was at Bostowne last; w^{ch} was the 7th of the 1st mo, and being [*torn*] suffered to refresh my selfe ashore was sent aboard the 10th hour in the night and made [*torn*]. I was favoured by theire so doinge, and there contineued till the 13th, w^{ch} day we sett sail, so that I could not furnish my selfe with such nessesaries as I stood in need of; but was will^g though in a smaler measure to suffer it at theire hands as well as my breathren and sisters have before me. But theire injustice and unrighteouse lawes are seen by it to favor the one & to condemne the other. Our God winketh not at any man's sin, neither is a respect of persons. If they have executed justice on my breatheren and sisters, then have they by unjuste violated theire lawe by not inflictinge of the same on me; and if they have done justice upon me, then have they used violence with cruelty on my deer bretheren & sisters, which shall not remaine unpunished; and the terrors of the Lord will sease on them, w^{ch} is more than my desire should for ever continue. And if thy son hath freedom to take his abode at my house I shall be free

to receive him, and to afford him all the helpe and assitance I can possible in every thinge. If I had some of that stone w^{ch} is at thy farme, I would have made a triall and given account of it; I know nothinge but that it may doe, w^{ch} if it doth, it will prove exceedinge benifitiall to thee &c. As for newes, the Sweed and the Dane are at peace, though with the losse of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Dane contery, besides the Sond, an hard article; so y^t the Sweed, if not more modirate then the Duch were to them, will be the ruine of the Duch and quite spoil theire Eastern trade and inrichen themselues by it. A lamentable thinge that men should ruine others to make them selves, as they thincke! Oliver, in his fury, hath desolved the Parliament. Rememb^r my deer and tender love to thy wife, and to Elisabeth and Lucy and the rest of thy famelie. I am thy true frind, as in the pure fear of God,

GILES SYLVESTER.

CONSTANT SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

These to my Honoured Frinde, John Winthrop, Gov^r of Conetticott Jurisdiction, present.

HONOURED S^r, — Having by a speciall providence met M^r Luce an oportunity, could not but by a line or two returne yⁿ thancks for y^e many civillities I received from yⁿ when I was in New England. S^r be pleased to accept of a case of such sugars as my plantation doth yeeld, & a little of o^r Barbados tarr, as they call it, & some palm oile, w^{ch} is brought us hither from Ginny. I have not els at present, but that I am S^r

Y^{or} ffrinde & serv^t

CONSTANT SYLVESTER.

BARBADOS this 6th Apr: 1659.

JOSHUA SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To his loving friend, M^r John Winthrop, Governor of Herford Colony and Comissioner of the United Colonies, in New Haven.

IN SHELTER ISLAND, the 7 of September 1660.

HONOURED S^r, — Being att the river's mouth third day last, I delivered a letter to Liu^{tt} Gardenar which I have writte to the Comisioners, w^{ch} hee promissed faithfully to deliver them without fail with his owne hand upon theire first sitting now in New [*illeg.*], w^{ch} if hee

should have failed in answering my desire, and being informed that you are one of the Comissioners, my request is you will so farr pleasure me as to demand the same of him and cause it to be read amongst you when you shall be assembled together; it being of some passages concerning Shelter Island and others since my coming heither, and how some persons are active to molest our right in this island and so are going to doe otherwise then they would be done unto, and their shamesnes is such that theye would have the Comissioners to joyne with them in their wicked interprises. But the Lord, who abhors the counsell and inttent of the wicked foxe, will preserve you all, and give you wisdom to act nothing but what may tend to His glory, the fruits of which will produce to you a peace and honnour. So committing you with a Christian salutation to the protection of the Almighty God and remaine

Your loving friend, JOSHUA SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To his Honnored Friend, John Winthrop Esq^r this, att New-London or Elsewhere. By Daniell Lanne.

M^R JOHN: WINTHROP:

DEER S^R, — Yo^a have receiv^d and the inclosed deliver^d. Coⁿ Midleton, whose smooth carriage and tong to me yⁿ know, seemed all love and hart. It cannot but be strange to hear, under pretence of that, how villanos he hath ben to me; the like I believe cannot be parreleld. I yett never was obliged to him for a ffarthen, but he owes me at this time £374: monies lent him, besides what I stand ingadged for him, w^{ch} is upward of a thousand pound. This secret viper for a long time hath watched an upertunity privatly to give me a fatal blowe. Had I not had truth and innosency on my side, his strock would have ben so; but y^t preserved me, though I for a while suffered grevously, both in name, person and estat, more then I am able to express and loath to troble yⁿ with. And now he sees y^t he must fall under it, would faine putt it upon my brother and cleer himselfe! No, no, his wickedness is two, two great and public for to pass it by, neither cann I if I would, except I violate truth and wrong my self, w^{ch} I shall not doe, but lett it ffall as heavy vpon him as his crime desarves, w^{ch} I am shewer is more then he cann bear. The Lord hath beyond my desart delivered me through them all, for w^{ch} I ever desire to praise and magnify His holly name. At present I am with my brother Constant, who owes me, as by y^e accounts delivered

him, besides commiss. and my halfe of y^e Plantation: two thousand one hundred and twelve pound. And that wrech Midleton reported in London all over and on y^e Exchange that I did owe my brother ffive thousand pound, and prest people to whom I was bound for him, and others, to fall vpon me for paym^t, saying y^t my brother would withdraw his commissions from me, wherfor if they were not paid befor, they should never be paid; —after this indeavored to gitt me into prizon. Barbados rings of his wikedness allready, and so shall England shortly; for, the Lord permitting, I intend for London againe y^e latter end of this next month, ffrom whence, as upertunity sarves, y^a shall hear as often ffrom me as convenience will give leave. By a passingar in M^r Lann's vessell I understand that John Scott is in limbo for treason and other hainess crimes.¹ I also understand how he abuseth me. What reason he hath thereunto, and how much be-houlden he is to me, y^a verry well know. It is no wonder that remarkable judgments befalls such reprobats. Had I him in England, I should make him stand in y^e pillary befor y^e Exchange, and have his ears. Just at his going away I arrested him; then he would seem to deny a bond he gave me for a parsell of cloath he had of me, w^{ch} bond y^e rech, before Co^{ll} Midleton, Major Gatherson and Doctor Dawbry, confest the owing me more mony, gave me a new bond for y^e hole, w^{ch} is £104: for w^{ch} Maj^r Gatherson is bound, who also is a prizonar in y^e King's Bench. So I am not only like to be horribly abused, but also to lose my mony; but all men knowing him and me, his words are of no force. I hope the Lord will not leave me so as to commit any wickedness, but espetially from such premeditate growne ffrauds as I know him guilty of. The Lord forgive him, and preserve me pure for himself, and y^t my hart may not goe after any thing but what is agre-able to him and just amongst men! The blankets, ruggs, and uphous-tery ware y^a write for, he also had of me before yo^r come to hand. I hear that there are Commissioners gone ffor y^{or} parts, I suppose they cannot reach yo^r Pattend. The Parliam^t hath voated a warr between England and Holland, to w^{ch} the King will give his mind in writing; if such a thing as warr should be, it will prove sade, espetiall to poor England, whose groanse dayly iuceese more & more. We must com-mit all unto y^e Lord, continew fervent in prayer, and wthout seasing offer up our supplications; never more need than now, though it is nessesary allways to doe so. My Lord Willowbie hath so plag'd the Islanders wth severall exactions that he is loath'd by them; great com-plaints are gone for England against him, so that I belive he will not stand long. Indeed, he hath not only benn cruell, but also verry unjust in most what he hath done. I desire as often as wth convenience

¹ For an account of the notorious Capt. John Scott, see 1 Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc., vol. vi. pp. 65-74.

may be, to hear ffrom you. The Ginny, or Ryall Company, labor to ingross the whole trade of Barbadoes to themselves; if so, as here was news, they allready haue effected, then what will become of poor New England, and their trade? I suppose you have heard y^t soon after your departure my deer and honnorable mother was taken into glory. Shee did peaceably and willingly take her leave of us, and not in y^e least affriten'd at death, but went away as a lamb. I hope that all yo^r ffamylie are well. S^r please to remember me kindly to M^{is} Winthrop, M^r Fits: M^r Waite, M^{is} Lucy, and all the rest of y^{or} ffamily. S^r though I cann comunicat my particular affairs to you, I will not to any other except particular staid ffrinds, w^{ch} I know but ffew; and therfor desire you to keep it to your selfe. Wth y^e tender of my harty love and sarvice to yo^r selfe, I take leave, committing yⁿ and yours to y^e abundant grace and love of God, and y^t in his holly armes he will proteckt and preserve you from all the defilements, pure ffor him selfe; and so I remaine, my deer friend,

Y^{or} indeer^d & ffaithfull affectio: lov^e ffriend to serve yⁿ,

GILES SYLVESTER.

BARBADOS, 28th June 1664.

GILES SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

To y^e Worshipp^u. John Winthrop Esq^r, this, p^r inclosure.

M^r: JOHN: WINTHROP:

DEER FRIEND, — The 28th June by M^r Lane I gave yⁿ an account of my being here; also conserning y^e unhuman, indeed unheardof perfidies of John Scott, whose lying and wicked corses, as I have all along traste him in, if he escapes y^e gallos this bout and repents not, will att last come to it with shame and guilt. To my knowledg, he hath desarved it long since upon y^e account he was accus'd of. If ever he comes to England, I will make him know that he hath infinitely abused the innosent, a bare acknowledgment shall not sarve his turne. If he doth not come to England, I shall ffollow him by letter of attorney and inpower them who know his wikednes and my civillities to him. O wretched wrech, not worthy to be seen among sivell men! His wickedness reacheth up to heaven. One whom I have ffed with bread, and who, by my clemency to him, owes me to this day upon bond one hundred & four pounds. Had I not an other bound wth him for it, I would not deeme it worth tenn farthens. If y^e gallos hath him not, he will rot whilse he liveth. Happly yⁿ may thinck y^t I am in passion. No, beleive me, I speake wth greeff and in

sobernes. S^r please to vindicate me in whatsoever he hath abused me; it is wrongfully, as I am able to prove by Co^{ll} Midleton, Major Gather-son, Doctor Dawtry, & severall other parsons of qualletie. Please, also, to show every one, if yⁿ thinck good, what I write. I am within a fournight bound for London again, to regaine what I lost and enjoy what fformely I did. S^r M^r Tho: Revell told me y^t M^r Richbell was in election to gitt possession of M^r Revell's lands for want of his pres-ence, but I hope better of yo^r contry; for M^r Richbell told me y^t M^r Revell had bought y^e land, and y^t he had benn in treaty wth y^e Indians before M^r Revell, and therefore desired M^r Revell y^t it might be between them. M^r Revell denying him, he said he would seeke to surcomvent him, as now it seems he is about, if not accomplished. He told me he would. I intreat yⁿ to prevent him & if he hath, to give M^r Revell a new hearing, y^t he may enjoy his owne, as it is meete every man should. What I say I speake as in y^e presence of God, and shall be ready at any time to depose y^e same. What yⁿ doe in this, beleive me, S^r I shall take as done to my selfe. I am not in y^e least consernd, further than I judge M^r Revell an honnest man. S^r, God sending me safe to England, you will haue a ffull account of all things. I pray lett me hear from yⁿ vpon all occations; and so, my ffriend, I comitt yⁿ and all yours to Him who is in power, and deerly salutt yⁿ, M^{rs} Wintrop, M^r Fitts, M^r Waite, M^{rs} Lucy, & y^e rest of your famely, with prayers of God's blessing vpon yⁿ and all y^e Israell of God who love y^e Lord Jesus in cinserety; and so I remaine, deer S^r:

Y^{or} ever ffaithf^{ll} lov^g ffriend in truth,

GILES SYLVESTER.

BARBADOS, the 16th of 7^{br} 1664.

S^r, if yⁿ recolect yo^r memory, yⁿ may remember y^t I told yⁿ in London what I write about M^r Revell & M^r Richbell, and how I pre-vented M^r Richbell of a bargaen for said lands, as knowing it justly to be M^r Revell's. *Vale.*

GILES SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

M^r JOHN WINTHROP:

INDEERED & LOVING FRIEND,—Meeting wth opertunity could not omitt to aquaint yⁿ wth y^e state of o^r Nation in England, w^{ch} is exceeding deplorable and sad. Y^e last sommer there dyed upward of 250,000 of the Plage, and ab^t 20,000 for want of bread. As to y^e warr, there is no licklyhood of peace, and trade we have none. Though y^e Dutch dare not appear abroad, yett there are severall

privateers out, w^{ch} doe us great prejudice. It is thought that y^e sickness will be as hott this sommer as it was y^e last, and I feare a great famin will accompany it. Hay was sould at £5 10^s p load, and we have had noe rainse all this winter nor y^e spring. What there may be, God knows. Y^e Lord be marcyfull to poor England! But all these things are not considered, and parsecution is as much as ever it was. I am now bound for y^e Barbados from this place. If yⁿ meete wth an oportunity to Barbados, I pray lett me hear from you, and I desire yⁿ to convay the inclosed wth all speed to my brother Nathaniell, knowing not any ffriend I may more confide in then yo^r selfe. So wth my sarvice to yⁿ, M^r Winthrop, M^r Fits, M^r Waite, M^{rs} Lucie, and the rest of yours, I take leave and am, deer S^r

Y^{or} ffaithf^{ull} ffrind to com^d,

GILES SYLVESTER.

MADERA, this 30th of May 1666.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

*This for John Winthrop, Governo^r of Conetticot Collony, in Herford.
P^r Isaac Arnold.*

IN SHELTER ISLAND, y^e 9th of y^e 3^m. 1674.

MOST WORTHY AND MUCH INDEARED FRIEND, — I have made bould to returne thee heartie thancks for thy courtious lines, which I received p^r my sonn Giles, and for y^e joyfull and happy newes which thou wert pleased by y^e same to communicate unto me, of y^e peace concluded on betwixt England and Holland. The Lord grant it may be of continuence, and us hearts to prayse his holy name for this his goodness in putting a stopp to y^e sadd issue of blood which hath bin occasioned by the unhappy difference which was betwixt them, as also for that to this day he hath bin pleased so wonderfully to preserve and protect this country from that ruen and destruction which by the ennimie was threatned. I should be glad to see the day in which I might be capeable of doeing anything worth thyn or y^e Collonys taking notice of, as p^r thyn thou art pleased to intimate; but fearing my capascitie will never reach thereunto, let me crave excuse of you both, in that I have notwithstanding bin so bould as to receive those favours which so liberally from time to time have bin bestowed vpon me; and be pleased to accept of my prayers to y^e Lord, which are that he will be pleased to reward you a thousand fould for all y^e love and care which you have had for the preservation of me and my familie in these perrilous times, and also that he will still continue his protection over

thy selfe and whole Collony against all ennimies whatsoever. I would gladly haue taken this opertunitie of accompanying my neighbours, that so I might have injoyed y^e great desires I had to give thee a visit, but am prevented of y^e same by reason of y^e distemp^r which continues vpon me. All my joynts remaining very stiff, espetially my armes, and in hopes to remove the cause, have this spring taken six times of thy *rubula*, which, although as yet hath given me little ease, I am not out of hopes but that it may prove better with me when the weather proves more constant and warme then it hath don heathertoe; and if the same failes me, it's my fear I shall be forced to crave thy further help. Dear Friend, that so I may not prove burthensome, I shall, with the remembrece of myn and my wife's indeared love and heartie desires of thy helth and eternall happynesse in y^e Lord, take leave and indeavor ever to remaine

Thy most faithf^{ll} & true friend^d,

NATHANIELL SYLVESTER.

Be pleased y^e p^rsent o^r dear respeckt unto thy sonn John, & daughters Martha & Ann.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR.,¹ TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

P^rsent to his honoured ffriend, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London.

SHELTER ISLAND, Aug. 4th 1674.

S^r, — As I was contriving & wishing for an opp^tunity to give you fresh assurances of my service, this bearer came very fortunately to deprive me of that care, but with such a hast that I have but just halfe a minute of time, & therefore can only assure you that if you will pardon y^e brevity of this, the next shall be a large booke; which shall tell you how much I am S^r

Your reall ffreind and servant,

GILES SYLVESTER.

Be pleased, S^r if you have any newes, to impart it to us, & especially if you know any intelligence concerning New Yorck. All your ffriends in these parts expect when you will oblide them wth y^or p^rsence & good company. I hope ere it be long you'll favour us with y^e same, which if you please to doe, what we so often discourse of might be without y^e least trouble effected. *Vale.*

¹ Son of Nathaniel Sylvester.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

To his honored ffreind, Maj^r John Winthrop in New London
P^r A : Q : D : P.

SHELTER ISLAND, October y^e 30th 1674.

HONORED SIR, — The desire I have to p^rserve the interest I promise my selfe to have in yo^r favour, enticeth me to make use of all opp^tunitiyes to advantage my selfe therein, — although y^e trouble I give you by often p^rsenting you with my letters needs a greater excuse than I can make, but I rely upon yo^r goodness for a pardon, since their intent is only to confirme to my selfe y^e assurance of yo^r freindship, which I am not a little ambitious of. It would make my lett^r a large booke if I should tell you how much your p^resence hath been expected heer, & what a univ^sall sadness hath possest your friends for want of y^e same; & if you doe not make us happy with yo^r company wee shall be all in mourning shortly. Be pleased to p^rsent my humble s^rvce to Major Paulmes & his lady, & y^e [*torn*] of a thousand thanks for all former kindnesses. I will trouble you noe further than to intreat you to beleive y^t I want words to tell you how much I am S^r

Yo^r reall ffreind & humble s^rvant,

GILES SYLVESTER.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

This for his Most Worthy Friend, John Winthrop, Governo^r of
Conetticut Collony, in Herford. P^r George Tyler.

IN SHELTER ISLAND, y^e 27th of y^e 3^d. 1675.

MOST WORTHEY & INDEARED FRIEND, — The dayly sence I have of those manifold and never to be forgotten sevilities which from time to time I have received from thy noble and tender heart, constraines me p^r a few lines dearly to salute thee, and to assure thee it to be my breathings to the Lord thou maist have them turned all into blessings, and that those days which through his Divine Providence he shall be pleased still to grant thee, may be accompanied with Heavenly joy. As also that at their expiration thou maist be received by him and plast amongst his Saints. Upon the Governo^r of New York's arivell I went to congratulate y^e same, hoping withall to have found the Dutch Gouverno^r there; but mist of him, being newly (with his souldiers) gone aboard of a States man of warr, where I was earnestlie invited to give him a visit, but durst not hazard to venture my feet vpon such a flotie foundation. My bond he left with Bayard his

Secret^y, with order to receive the remainder. Concerning which having some discours wth Governo^r Andross, he was pleased to promise that said Bayard should not molest me, notwithstanding his confidence to recover the same. What y^e issue thereof will be, I suppose this summer will further manifest. I little expected to have met wth those sevilities from the Governo^r which he hath been pleased to favoir me withall; for which providence of the Lord, and in begitting that love in thy bosum and o^r friends in Herford to meewards in time of distres, it's the desires of my soule he inable me to prays his name for evermore. Haveing great desires, with my wife, to see thy face and to make o^r personall acknowledgement for those obligations wee lay vnder, it's our intencion (the Lord permitting) this summer to give thee a vizit. And so, dear friend, craveing pardon for these my familier expressions, desiring thee withall to beleeve them to flow from a bosum which is full of upright love to thyselfe & whole familie, and that o^r reall esteem of thee is such that thy name is like a good savor to us and our children, I shall add no further but that, with presentation of myn and my wifes unfained respeckts unto thyselfe and daughters, I make bould to take leave, and to assure thee that it shall be my indeavor I may be found wth integritie of heart ever to remaine,

Thy most indeared & faithf^{ll} friend,

NATHANIELL SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

*To his honored ffriend, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.
P^r M^r Piggin.*

SHELTER ISLAND, March 1st 167 $\frac{1}{2}$.

HONO^RD S^R. — Although I had need to take a twelve months time to contrive how to beg a pardon for not paying my respects to you (ere now) in a lett^r, yett I doubt not the good success of this (though scribled in half a minute) when I shall tell you that this is y^e first opp^tunitie that hath p^rsented since I saw you last; when though it was my fortune to tarry one day in harbour, waiting the pleasure of the wind, yet I made it my buisness to wait on you, as it hapned when you were gone abroad; which if yo^r man Jeffry did not informe you of. I am y^e less beholden to him & shall take more time to give you a large account of how much I was concerned about it. The Justice & my selfe doe intend for Boston next week, aft^r my returne from whence I shall make it my first buisness to kiss yo^r hands & to tell you how much I am S^r:

Yo^r reall friend & servant,

G. SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

To his hon'd friend, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.

S^o HOLD, June 7th 1676.

HONRD S^R, — To endeavour to make an excuse for my selfe would be to justifie my selfe in a crime, for y^e expiation of w^{ch} no less punishment would serve than a banishment from yo^r good company, were I to plead my cause before any oth^r than so generous a p^rson as yo^rselfe. Tis this consideration that hinders me from waiting on you till I am sure of yo^r pardon ; & I hope you will believe y^t, had I been att home, I would have p^rsented my s^rvice to you in a lett^r, or kissed yo^r hands ere now. I promise my selfe y^e fav^r of a line from you p^r this op^rtunity, w^{ch} shall be counted a great happiness by, S^r

Yo^r reall friend & serv^t,

G. SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

*To his hon'd friend Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.
P^r Cp^t Young.*

SOUTHOLD, July 14th 1676.

SIR, — This is y^e first op^rtunity since my returne from New York to dispatch y^e inclosed to you ; w^{ch} I was desired to send wth speed, & I had sent an Indian on purpose, but that these troublesome times would have caused a dislike of it. I gave you y^e trouble of a lett^r p^r M^r Saunders, but have not been so happy as to hear of yo^r reception of it. I hope you will not forgett yo^r friends, & I promise my selfe this will find bett^r success, since y^e use it may be of to cover y^e inclosed may in some measure excuse my trouble of it. I have but half a minute of time to beg y^e continuance of yo^r friendship & to tell you y^t I glory in y^e title of S^r

Yo^r reall friend & serv^t

G. SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

To his hon'd friend, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.

SOUTH-TON, March 9th 1674.

HONRD S^R, — Haveing but halfe a minutes warning of this op^rtunity, I can only tell you that I have sent yo^r book (this being the first since I wrote to you last) & returne you a thousand thancks for y^e use of y^e

same. I hope although I was not soe diligent in y^e returning of it as I should have been, however you will not thinck but that I should have been very carefull to p^rforme y^e same. S^r pray have a favourable opinion of me concerning this, till I may be so fortunate as to see you, & then shall make it my business to tell you how much I am, S^r,

Yo^r reall friend & s^rvant,

G. SYLVESTER.

Cap^t Nichols nor M^r Knapton are come down from York, but Cap^t Willet, M^r Leet, M^r West, M^r Blagg, wth y^e rest of y^r company p^rsent their service to you & are at this p^rsent time drinking yo^r health.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO WAIT WINTHROP.

To Cap^t Waite Winthrop, in Boston, p^rsent. Pr M^r Philips.

SHELTER ISLAND, Aug^t 19th 1677.

S^r, — The occasion of my giveing you y^e trouble of this is that haveing received two lett^s from Cap^t Salisbury, earnestly intreating me to send him a draught of a scutcheon borne by y^e name of Salisbury, w^{ch} he chanced to have the sight of in Gwillim whilst I had y^e p^rusall of it; but haveing returned y^e same to y^rself cannot pleasure him, unless you will please to fav^r me wth a copy of y^e same, mentioⁿg its col^r, p^r this bearer, who returns shortly. I hope, S^r you will not faile to answer my request to you for this fav^r, since he wants y^e same to compare wth his owne, lately sent to him from his sist^r in England. S^r I will not trouble you any further, but beg p^rdon for this; returning you many thancks for those form^r kindnesses you have shown to

Yo^r friend & s^rvant,

G. SYLVESTER.

If there be any crest mentioned be pleased likewise to insert it. My humble s^rvce to the two Ladyes.

NATHANIEL SYLVESTER TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

This for Maj^r John Winthrop, in New-London, or Fisher's Island.

IN NEW YORK, y^e 5th of y^e ^om^o. 1677.

MAJ^r JOHN WINTHROP:

DEAR FRIEND, — Great was my ambition to haue acquainted thee, before my coming from Shelter Island, how that Gouverno^r Andross, p^r

those obligeing lines I receiued a little before from him, did with manifestation of great affection present his respektks vnto thee, with much desire to see thee here. And y^e Governo^r since my coming here acquainting me againe of y^e great desire he hath to enjoy thy company here, w^{ch} p^r the bearer he would haue signified, but y^e Court being sett and the vessell vpon setting sayle, was prevented: however, I could doe no less, being constrained through that love w^{ch} remains flowing in my bosum to theewards, than to signifie the same to thee, by reason of y^e honorable respekt I find y^e Gouerno^r to haue for thee; not doubting, considering thy generous spirrit, but that thou wilt take the oportunitie with y^e ffirst to answ^r his desires of giveing him a vizitt, which he hoping thou wilt doe, hath ordered y^e bearer with his boat, if need require, to wait vpon thee to sett thee over in o^r parts in case thou should rather choose to travell over Long Island than the maine. Dear Friend, the boat staying for me, am forsed, with desires of pardon for this bouldness, to break off, and so shall add no further but that, with y^e remembrance of my sincere love, I take leave and subscribe my selfe to remaine

Thy most faithfull friend,

NATHANIELL SYLVESTER.

Be pleased to p^rsent my dear respektks to Maj^r Palmes. Pray excuse my hastie scribling.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

To his hon^d friend, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.

SHELTER ISLAND, Decemb^r 3^d 1680.

WORTHY S^r, — Although I heard at York, p^r y^e returne of y^e Governor's sloop, y^t you were not wholly recovered of yo^r sickness, I hope fortune hath by this time been so kind as to restore you to yo^r former health. S^r I parted with y^e Govern^r last Tuesday morning, who gave me the enclosed, wth command to send it forward per y^e first: w^{ch} now p^rsents p^r Cap^t Young. I am but just returned home & Cap^t Young upon going, therefore have not time to give you a farther acc^t of any thing at present than to tell you that all things are well at Yorck, although y^e discourse of the vulgar may rep^rsent it otherwayes. I have no more at p^rsent but to assure you that had I time I would make it my buisness to wait on you & to entreat you believe that I am, worthy S^r,

Yo^r affectionate friend, & humble serv^t,

G. SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

To his hon'd freind, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.

SHELTER ISLAND, June 2^d 1682.

WORTHY S^r, — My rudeness in so unmaⁿerly a returne to yo^r civilityes, after leave taken, is so great as no confession of mine would excuse it to any other than yo^r good nature ; & since all y^e rhetorick I can employ will not be sufficient to expiate such a crime, tis only from yo^r goodness I'll hold my pardon. I would make an apology for my error in not kissing yo^r hands at my last coming away ; but when I consider how unseasonable it would have been (so early in y^e morning.) I know it is far better to be unman^{ly} than troublesome. Tis to you alone I acknowledge this confession due, who I hope are my friend & will pardon my last farewell to y^e errors of my youth, imputing it wholly to y^e 29th of May, a day w^{ch} shall be blotted out of my Kalender another year unless it be for me to improve to bett^r use, in makeing knowne to you how much I am, Worthy S^r,

Yo^r most humble servant,

G. SYLVESTER.

I hope yo^r leisure will sute you to obleidge him wth a line, who lives by y^e hopes of kissing yo^r hands here some time this summ^r. S^r my uncle Joshua requests y^e fav^r of a sear cloth of you for a pain he hath about his should^r since his late sicknes & desires you to excuse this boldness.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

To his hon'd freind, Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^resent.

SHELT^r ISLAND, July 12th 1682.

WORTHY S^r, — My most humble s^rvice to you. I was sorry y^t p^r y^e last opp^rtunity of my boat (when Maj^r Palmes had y^e bricks) I could not serve you wth y^e pavem^{ts} you sometime spake of ; & am likewise disappointed p^r this, for y^e fellow that makes them will not sett his kiln on fire till next week. I have not yet been unmindefull of them, & as soon as they are done shall take y^e first opp^rtunity to convey them to you. When I saw you last you gave me great hopes that I should kiss yo^r hands heer ere this ; I promise myselfe it wont be long till I enjoy that fav^r. Heer is no newes but from Yorck, that S^r Edmund is y^e p^rson expected again, w^{ch} I hope is true. S^r, I am just at this minute of time call'd by my occasions to Southhold & therefore can add no more, than to entreat yo^r belief that I alwayes am

Yo^r reall freind & humble s^rvant,

G. SYLVESTER.

GILES SYLVESTER, JR., TO FITZ-JOHN WINTHROP.

*To Maj^r John Winthrop, in New London, p^rsent.*SH: I: 10^{br} 27th 1683.

S^r,—My humble service to you. Although I knew of no certain conveyance for this to you speedily, yet I left this (being this morning taking horse for Yorck) to be sent with y^e first, to give you what acc^t I can concerning y^e proceedings of y^e Assembly. They have done what they can to bring all y^e Islands, viz: Fisher's, Shelter, Gardiner's, & Plum Island wthin y^e East Rideing, now y^e County of Suffolck, & so by consequence to be wthin y^e power of their magistracy; whereupon they have issued forth warrants for appearing before them to be assessed for raising of one penny in y^e lb as a gift to y^e Govⁿr. They have sent one of their warrants hither (& I unde^rstand one to yo^r selfe); but I take noe notice of it, not questioning but that, when Govⁿr is bett^r informed, he will command y^e contrary. However, shall try ye utmost whether y^e patent graunted by Coll: Nicols be of force or noe, & am resolved whatever thankfulness I show y^e Govrnor shall not pass through their hands. We have a pair of Hobarts that cannot live wthout trouble no more than a fish without water, who I perceive are as much as they can the occasion of this. I thought good to advise you of this; I know not what yo^r intent is in this matter, but I should have been very glad to have waited on yo^r selfe ere my going, to have taken yo^r advice, not questioning but that you being concerned in y^e like buisness would have advised me for y^e best, & to have gone together if it be yo^r intent (as I suppose it will be) to stir in this matt^r; but delays are not good. I will give you a further acc^t at my returne. I am in great hast, S^r

Yo^r very humble s^rvant,

G. SYLVESTER.

“Extract of Mr Sylvesters & Mr Pells Pattents, 1666.”

THE Patent for Shelter Island graunted to Constant Silvester of the Island of Barbadoes, Esq^r & Nathaniell Silvester of Shelter Island, merch^t, their heyres & assignes, beares date the 31th day of May 1666. The extraordinary clauses in the Patent are as followeth, viz^t that the s^d Island is to have like & equall priviledges & immunities with any towne, infranchised place, or mannour, within the Governm^t, & shall in no manner of way bee subordinate or belonging vnto, haue any dependance upon, or in any wise bee under y^e rule, order, or direction

of any riding, towneship or towneships, place or jurisdiction, upon Long Island, but shall in all cases, things & matters bee deemed, reputed, taken & held, as an absolute, intire, infranchised towneship, mannour, & place of it selfe, in this Government, & shall bee ruled, ordered & directed in all matters as to governm^t accordingly, by the Govern^r & his Councill & the Gen^l Co^rs of Assizes onely. Provided that no priviledges or immunities herein graunted, or mençoned to bee graunted, shall bee meant or interpreted to extend to the protecting of any trayto^r, malefact^r, fugitives, or debt^{rs}, flying into the said Island to the damage of any particular person, or the obstruction of the lawes & the common & publick peace of this Governm^t & the justice thereof. The tenure of the land to bee held as of y^e manno^r of East Greenwich in the county of Kent, in free & common soccage, & by fealty onely. The Island is by the law exempted from taxes & publick rates, as also from training & other military duties. The patentees are to pay as an acknowledgm^t one lambe onely yearly, upon the first day of May, if demanded.

Mr. Thomas Pells Patent for Anne Hookes Neck, Miniford Island, & the other small islands adjacent, is in all respects conformable to that of Shelter Island, with this onely addiçon, viz^t allwayes provided that the inhabitants on the s^d tract of land shall bee obliged to send forward to the next towne all publick packetts & letters, or hue & cryes, coming to this place, or going from it to any other of his Ma^{ties} Colonies. The acknowledgm^t the same as Shelter Island. The patent is dated Oct. 6. 1666.

Judge CHAMBERLAIN alluded to the London "Gazette," which was the official organ of the government in those days, and to which Judge Sewall frequently refers, which contains much authentic information relating to the Colonies that can be found nowhere else, and only one complete copy of which exists in this country, and that is at Washington.

Mr. WOLCOTT said: —

In further amplification of one of the incidents referred to at the last meeting in Mr. Slafter's elaborate paper on the Symbols of Royalty, it may prove interesting to relate more fully the history of the equestrian statue of King George III., which at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War stood on the Bowling Green, the apex of the New York promontory.

By the repeal of the Stamp Act in March, 1766, the smouldering embers of loyalty in the breasts of the American colonists were temporarily fanned into a blaze of ardent devotion

to the crown and its ministers. Stimulated by this sentiment, a large meeting of the citizens of New York was held at Burns's Coffee House on June 23, 1766, at which resolutions were adopted petitioning the Assembly to erect a statue in honor of William Pitt, for whose efficient advocacy of their cause the colonists thus showed their gratitude, and also that an equestrian statue of George III. might be erected on the Bowling Green, where it would greet the incoming ship with the assurance that here, not less than in England, his Majesty's person and high office were held in honor and esteem.

Both these measures were accomplished. A marble statue of Pitt was set up in Wall Street on the 7th of September, 1770. The figure was draped in a Roman toga, and the pedestal bore the following inscription: "This Statue of the Right Honorable William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was erected as a public testimony of the grateful sense the Colony of New York retains of the many eminent services he rendered to America, particularly in promoting the repeal of the Stamp Act. Anno Domini 1770." This statue was desecrated, but it was by the British troops. Mary L. Booth, in her "History of the City of New York" (1863), says: —

"After the occupation of the city by the British in 1775, the head and right hand were struck off by the soldiery, in revenge for the insults before offered by the Americans to the statue of George III. The headless trunk remained standing until after the evacuation in 1783, when it was removed to the Bridewell Yard. It was thence transferred to the yard of the Arsenal near the Collect, and finally found its way to the corner of Franklin Street and West Broadway, where its headless trunk may now be seen in front of the basement entrance of the Museum Hotel."

The statue of King George was erected on the Bowling Green in front of Fort George on the 21st August, 1770, the birthday of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, the father of the king. It was the work of Wilton, a celebrated statuary of London, and although made principally of lead is described as "very elegant and richly gilded, so that it had the appearance of being solid gold."

The ceremony of the dedication is thus described in a letter of Lieut.-Gov. Cadwallader Colden to Lord Hillsborough: —

"An equestrian guilt [*sic*] statue of the King, made by direction of, and purchased by this Colony, came over in one of the last ships from

London. On Thursday last it was opened to view, erected on its proper pedestal, in a square near the Fort, and fronting the principal street of the city. I was attended on this occasion by the gentlemen of the Council, and members of Assembly then in town, the magistrates of the city, the clergy of all denominations, and a very large number of the principal inhabitants. Our Loyalty, firm attachment and affection to his Majesty's person was expressed by drinking the King's health, and a long continuance of his reign, under a discharge of thirty-two pieces of cannon, a band of music playing at the same time from the ramparts of the Fort. The General and officers of the army gave us the honor of their company on the occasion. The whole company walked in procession from the Fort round the statue, while the spectators expressed their joy by loud acclamations, and the procession having returned with me to the Fort, the ceremony concluded with great cheerfulness and good humour."

An agreeable occasion truly !

But the cheerfulness and good humor were destined to eclipse. Except amid the official class, the flame of loyalty to a transatlantic monarch and government, which had burned so brightly on the repeal of the Stamp Act, had soon become flickering and unsteady, and was well-nigh extinguished in the revulsion of feeling which followed the imposition of the duty on tea, and the other events which now crowded upon one another so thickly.

Already in February, 1773 (13th George III., Chap. 1580), an act was passed "to prevent the defacing of statues which are erected in the city of New York."

On the afternoon of July 10, 1776, the news of the adoption by the Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence reached New York, and was read to the troops drawn up in hollow square, in the centre of which were Washington and his staff. The people in great numbers crowded around. The hour was late and the excitement intense. After the dismissal of the soldiery, the populace, headed by the Sons of Liberty, with one accord repaired to the Bowling Green. Having reached the statue of their gracious sovereign, it was not long before the changed condition of sentiment found expression in overt act. At first the tops of the iron railing surrounding the statue were twisted or broken off; and these, it is said, at a later period furnished projectiles to cannon pointed at his Majesty's troops.

Nor was the statue itself spared. By the light of blazing bonfires kindled in the streets, ropes were thrown over horse and rider, and both were dragged to the ground. The pedestal remained standing for some years, and was finally removed after the close of the war.

What became of king and charger? We are told they were drawn through the streets by the indignant patriots and then hewn in pieces, which were carefully concealed. We are able to trace the subsequent history of these fragments.

Oliver Wolcott, Jr., who in 1795 succeeded Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury in Washington's Cabinet, and was afterwards for ten years Governor of Connecticut, in a sketch which he prepared of the life of his father, Oliver Wolcott, says:—

“In January, 1776, he attended at Philadelphia the session of Congress at which the Declaration of Independence was adopted, of which he was one of the Signers. . . . During the session he returned to Connecticut. He carried with him from the city of New York the leaden statue of King George III., which was converted into bullets at Litchfield, under his direction.”

Tradition says the fragments of the statue were transported to Litchfield with the utmost secrecy in an ox-cart furnished by the New York patriots. On reaching their destination, they were buried under an apple-tree in Oliver Wolcott's orchard. This tree (of the Pound variety) my father, born in 1804, well remembers. It was near the southeasterly corner of the old homestead, still standing, which has received as guests Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau, Hamilton, and many others distinguished in the Revolutionary period.

The following memorandum in the handwriting of the elder Oliver Wolcott gives the further history of the statue:—

Mrs. Marvin	3456 cartridges.	
“ “ on former account	2602	6,058
Ruth Marvin on former account	6204	
Not sent to court house 449 packs	5388	11,592
Laura on former account	4250	
Not sent to court house, 344 packs	4128	8,378
Mary Ann on former account	5762	

Not sent to court house 119 packs, out of which		
I let Col. Perley Howe have 3 packs	5028	10,790
Frederick on former account	708	
Not sent to court house 19 packs	228	936
		<hr/>
		37,754
Mrs. Beach's two accounts		2,002
Made by sundry persons		2,182
Gave Litchfield militia on alarm		50
Let the regiment of Col. Wigglesworth have		300
		<hr/>
Cartridges No.		42,288
Overcharged in Mrs. Beach's account		200
		<hr/>
		42,088

The original account is indorsed by General Wolcott "an account of the number of cartridges made." It is undated, and bears no reference to the statue having furnished the material. But a memorandum added by his son explains it as follows: —

"N. B. An equestrian statue of George the Third of Great Britain was erected in the city of New York on the Bowling Green, at the lower end of Broadway; most of the materials were lead, but richly gilded to resemble gold. At the beginning of the Revolution this statue was overthrown. Lead being then scarce and dear, the statue was broken in pieces, and the metal transported to Litchfield as a place of safety. The ladies of this village converted the lead into cartridges, of which the preceding is an account. (Signed) O. W."

Mrs. Marvin was the wife of Reinold Marvin, who had held the office of king's attorney, until he voluntarily relinquished it in order to give himself wholly to the struggle for independence. The daughter Ruth Marvin afterwards married Ephraim Kirby, who served through the Revolution with distinction, and retired with "thirteen honorable scars." Among their descendants the soldierly instinct has been conspicuous down to the present time.

Laura, Mary Ann, and Frederick were the children of the elder Oliver Wolcott. Laura married William Moseley, of Hartford (Yale College, 1777), and left no descendants. Mary Ann married Chauncey Goodrich (Yale College, 1776),

who early attained the highest rank in the profession of law, and served for many years in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the United States. She was a woman distinguished for her beauty and wit. Frederick Wolcott was then a boy of ten, which may account for his inconsiderable share in the work, and for the fact that he was the only male included in the list. He afterwards graduated at Yale with the first honors of his class, and died in 1837 after a long life of honorable public and private usefulness.

Mrs. Beach was probably the wife of Beriah or Noah Beach, who were two of a band of thirty-six picked Litchfield men engaged in the defence of Fort Washington when it was stormed by the British, Nov. 16, 1776. The fate of this little band is seldom paralleled in the history of civilized warfare. Four were killed in the attack. The rest, thirty-two in number, were imprisoned on board prison ships, in Livingstone's sugar-house, and in the North Church. Owing to the neglect and hardships to which they were subjected, twenty died before December 27, when an exchange of prisoners was effected. Of the remaining twelve only eight were able to sail for Connecticut, among whom were the two Beaches, and of these four died on the way.

The cartridges thus made by the women of Litchfield were, for purposes of defence, distributed among the Whigs of the surrounding country, — for Connecticut, abandoned by almost all its fighting men, was in constant fear of invasion, — and some of them were put to good use at Danbury in repelling the brutally marauding expedition under Governor Tryon.

But it appears that the entire statue was not so utilized. In the "Diary and Letters of His Excellency Thomas Hutchinson," under date of Nov. 22, 1777, we find the following entry : —

"At Lord Townshend's, Portman Square, Lady Townshend asked me if I had a mind to see an instance of American loyalty? and going to the sofa, uncovered a large gilt head, which at once appeared to be that of the King, which it seems the rebels at N. York, after the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776), cut off from the statue which had been erected there, and sent to Fort Washington, in order to fix it on a pole or pike: but by some means or other it was buried, and after the surrender of the Fort, Montresor (?) took it into his possession, and sent it to Lord T., which he rec'd last night. The nose is wounded

and defaced, but the gilding remains fair ; and as it was well executed, it retains a striking likeness."

In another part of his Diary he records the fact that " Lord Stirling, so-called," who held high command in the American army, but whose right to the title he assumed had been denied by the House of Lords, was said to have himself severed the head of the statue from the body. It is probable that this head exists in some private or public collection in England to-day.

So much of the history of the statue is unquestionably authentic. I now come to certain statements advanced with considerable definiteness of detail, but which lack complete confirmation. One of these statements is found in Miss Booth's " History of the City of New York," already quoted. A footnote, following a general account of the conversion of the statue into bullets, says : " The saddle-cloth, sunk in a marsh opposite the house of Wolcott, was quite recently discovered by accident and exhumed, and after passing through various hands was purchased by Mr. Riley, of the Museum Hotel, where it still remains, a fitting companion for the statue of Pitt," to which reference has already been made. I have ascertained that at the time this history was published (1863) " Riley's Fifth Ward Museum Hotel " stood in West Broadway, and contained an extensive collection of Revolutionary relics ; but it subsequently was devoted to business purposes, and the collection dispersed. I have failed to obtain any confirmation of the finding of this saddle-cloth at *Litchfield* ; but the statement is made on good authority that a part of the saddle, with holsters attached, was dug up in the town of Wilton, and sold for twenty-five dollars to a student then attending a school in that town kept by a daughter of Rev. Samuel Willard, D.D. In the town of Wilton, too, Mr. Samuel Coley many years ago found on his farm a horse's tail in metal, weighing about four hundred pounds, which he sold for \$120 to " an historical society, then located, he thinks, at the corner of Broadway and Fourteenth Street, New York ; " possibly the Museum Hotel which had secured the other relics. The tradition in Wilton was that both these pieces had been thrown aside when the statue was being transported through the town. From the fact that all descriptions of the statue speak of it as " mostly " of lead, it is possible that these portions were of some other

metal, not fit for running into bullets, and were on this account purposely discarded. If these fragments are still in existence, it is probable that they and the battered head in England are the only portions left of the statue which in its brave gilding looked out over the waters of Long Island Sound at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

Mr. WARREN said that a statue of Pitt formerly had been set up in Dedham, of which the stone foundation still remains.

Dr. GREEN made the following remarks : —

Among the manuscript volumes belonging to the Society is a note-book of 166 pages, kept by the Rev. William Brinsmead, the first minister of Marlborough, Massachusetts. It consists mostly of texts and heads of sermons delivered by him on Sundays, Fast days and Thanksgivings, and covers a period, with no omissions, from the year 1682 to 1695. It mentions also, briefly, the Wednesday meetings held at the houses of different persons in Marlborough, as well as refers to the services on Lecture days in other towns, where Mr. Brinsmead took part. In early times it was a practice throughout New England, shortly before the regular communion service, to observe a half-day with some religious exercises, and this was called "Lecture day." It was made the occasion of some special pains to prepare the communicants for the sacrament.

The book is written in Latin, without a blot or blemish, in very plain and handsome characters ; and the texts are given either in Hebrew or Greek, according as they are taken from the Old or the New Testament. Sometimes Mr. Brinsmead preached several sermons, on successive Sundays, from the same verse ; and in one instance he appears to have taken his text for thirteen Sunday discourses in succession from Nehemiah i. 14. The places in the Bible where the subject is found are indicated in the outer margin in clear and large letters ; while the names of the several towns where the sermons were preached are shown in the inner margin. A list of these towns comprises Billerica, Braintree, Chelmsford, Concord, Dorchester, Dunstable, Groton, Marlborough, Milton, Rehoboth, Sudbury and Weymouth. The names are given in a Latinized form, though sometimes abbreviated, thus : Billericæ, Chelmesfordiæ, Grotonii, Waym., etc.

The date of the first entry in the book is March 5, 1681-2, and of the last, Feb. 9, 1695-6. The first one may be translated thus:—

Marlborough, Sunday forenoon, March 5. I preached on the uses of the doctrine from these words taken together, Proverbs viii. 36 [here the first clause of the verse is quoted in Hebrew.] Afternoon, I treated of the doctrine in part from these words, namely [here follows the last clause of the verse].

On the following Sunday he preached another sermon from the same verse. Occasionally there are various other entries about church matters which the writer thought worthy of note; and in these brief items the chief interest of the book now lies. As examples I give the following translations:—

Sunday afternoon, October 8, 1682. To-day a contribution was taken up for Jonathan Johnson, who has been boarding a sick Scotchman, named William Craford.

Sunday afternoon, March 4, 1683. To-day we received into the church my sister Jane Brinsmead.

I make this extract in order to show how the writer himself spelled the surname, as it was often written "Brimsmead." The sister afterward married John Ruddock, and died on Feb. 9, 1687-8, as is stated in the book.

May 6, 1683. In the afternoon Mr. Jonathan Russell [of Barnstable] preached from Psalms lv. 22.

October 29, 1684. Mr. Grindall Rawson [of Mendon] was ordained.¹

June 8, 1687. Mr. Gershom Hobart [of Groton] preached at a Lecture.

September 20, 1687. John Warner, of Lancaster, was taken into the church, at the house of Jonathan Johnson. At the same time John Rudduck and Edward Rice were chosen deacons.

Sunday afternoon, October 30, 1687. Mr. [Edward] Taylor, of Westfield, and Mr. Jonathan Russell were present, and Mr. Taylor, owing to my having the nosebleed, offered up the first prayer.

February 9, 1687. About midnight my sister Jane Rudduck died happily after a life spent happily; and in the afternoon of February 13, was buried.

September 9, 1688. Owing to rumors in circulation early this morning [about the Indians], no public services were held.

¹ Mr. Sibley, in his *Harvard Graduates* (vol. iii. p. 161), gives the date of this ordination as April 7, 1684.

September 19, 1688. Preached on a Lecture day at Groton, from Jeremiah xvi. 17 [here follows the text in Hebrew]. The pulpit was so dark this rainy day that I could not read the text; on which account it was read by Mr. Hobart of that town, nor was I able to read any text at this meeting.

Sunday afternoon, March 1, 1691. To-day was taken up a contribution for the redemption of the captives from the Eastern Indians [*ab Indis Orientalibus*], on the petition of Henry Jackson, of whose family four were then in the hands of the enemy.

Mr. Brinsmead mentions perhaps thirty persons at whose houses the midweek meetings were held. In this list appear the names of John Barnes, John Barrett, Thomas Beaman, Abraham and Isaac Howe, Widow Hunt, Jonathan Johnson, Nathaniel Joslin, Henry and William Kerley, John Maynard, Joseph, Moses and Richard Newton, Daniel, Edward, Joseph and Samuel Rice, John Ruddock, Samuel and William Ward, Master Weld, Abraham Williams, James and John Woods, and others.

This interesting old volume was used by the Rev. Thomas Prince in the preparation of his "Chronological History of New-England;" and in his Preface (page vii), where he gives a list of the manuscripts consulted,¹ he refers to it, as follows:—

An Original *Journal* in *Latin*, composed by the late Rev. Mr. *Brinsmead* of *Marlborough*, and in his own Handwriting, from 1665 to 1695, inclusively.

On the paper cover there is a brief memorandum in Prince's well-known handwriting; and from the description of the

¹ It may be worthy of note that there are now in the Society's Library several other manuscripts, which were used by Mr. Prince and mentioned in this list. They are as follows:—

"The Rev. Mr. *William Hubbard's* General HISTORY of NEW ENGLAND from the Discovery to 1680, in 338 Pages: And tho' not in his own Hand-writing, yet having several Corrections made thereby." This manuscript was presented by the Reverend Dr. John Eliot, on April 9, 1791, and is included in the first gift ever made to the Society.

"Major General *Gookin's* History of the *New-England Indians*, to 1674, inclusively."

"An Original *Journal* of the late Capt. *Lawrence Hammond* of *Charlestown* and *Boston*, from 1677 to 1694, inclusively."

Besides these volumes there are various interleaved almanacs with notes by Chief Justice Sewall, the Rev. Thomas Shepard (the son), of Charlestown, and the Rev. Joseph Gerrish, of Wenham, which are mentioned in Mr. Prince's list.

Journal given by the Annalist, when in his possession, it would appear that the work was probably in two volumes, as it extended over a period of thirty years. In that case the Society's copy, which covers nearly fourteen years and is complete in itself, was the second volume; but there is no mark on the book to indicate this fact. It is not now known either when or by whom the manuscript was given.

In the sale "Catalogue of the American Library of the late Mr. George Brinley," Part I. (Hartford, 1878), page 128, under Mather (Richard), is the following title, numbered 938:—

MANUSCRIPT SERMON, from Heb. 13. 17, preached "At an Ordination at Marlborough, Apr: 7: 1659." 16 pages, 8°.

This entry in the catalogue is accompanied with the following note:—

The *occasion* and the *date* of this Sermon deserve notice. The town of Marlborough was not incorporated until May [31], 1660, and the Rev. William Brinsmead (a native of Dorchester, and doubtless a member of Mather's church) is said to have been the first minister, but he was not *installed* until October 3, 1666. That he (or any other) minister was *ordained* at Marlborough as early as April, 1659, seems to have been unknown even to Mr. Hudson, the local historian.

While the subject is involved in some obscurity, it would be an interesting fact to know what minister was ordained on April 7, 1659; but all the circumstantial evidence points to William Brinsmead as the man. He was born at Dorchester, where the Rev. Richard Mather, the writer of the ordination sermon, was settled as pastor. He was preaching at Marlborough as early as September, 1660; and the customs and traditions of the Puritan church would suggest a previous ordination. The presumption certainly lies in that direction.

Mr. Brinsmead remained here during several years, when, owing to some civil or ecclesiastical troubles, he left the town and went to Plymouth to preach, where he was invited to settle, but declined the call. He afterward returned to the field of his first labors, and was installed at Marlborough, on Oct. 3, 1666; and here he continued his ministrations until his death, which occurred on July 3, 1701.

Unfortunately the early records of Marlborough are lost,

so that now there is no help from this source to answer the question.

The Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP then addressed the meeting in these words :—

The appointment of a committee at the last meeting, agreeably to your suggestion, Mr. President, for the selection of anything in our archives which might furnish the material for a special publication appropriate to the coming Centennial of the first Inauguration of Washington in 1789, led me to think whether I could recall any tradition or any fact or any paper having relation to that most notable event. The rough draught of a short letter, and a little anecdote, are all that I have been able to think of, and these may hardly be worth reading or recounting.

The letter is from Gov. James Bowdoin to Benjamin Franklin, to whom it introduces the first President of this Society, and is as follows :—

BOSTON, 1788.

His Exc^l Benjⁿ Franklin at Philadelphia.

D^r SIR,—Several Gentlemen going to Phil^a are desirous of the honour of being introduced to your Excellency. Among them is Christ^o Gore esq^r a Gentleman of reputation in y^e Profession of Law: and, which adds to the worth of his character, a warm advocate of federalism and particularly of y^e proposed Federal Constitution. He will be able to inform you of the favourable prospects we have in regard to the adoption of that Constitution by y^e State of New Hampshire. We have just heard of its adoption by Maryland, upon w^{ch} occasion y^e Bells are now announcing y^e publick joy.

It is to be hoped y^e complete adoption of it is not very distant: in w^{ch} case y^e U. S. may expect to experience y^e benefits arising from a firm and energetick government, on y^e felicities of w^{ch} I hope to congratulate you a Century hence, as well as in y^e Course of y^e present year.

I beg leave to introduce to y^r Exc^l the rev^d Mr. Hilliard, a worthy clergyman of Cambridge, and his friend Mr. Tho^s Lee of y^e same town. As they intend going to Phil^a, they requested a line of introduction to give them y^e honor & pleasure of paying their respects to a Gentleman, whose character they highly revere. With y^e most affectionate regards, I have y^e honour of being, my dear friend,

Yrs,

[JAMES BOWDOIN.]

The rough draught from which this copy is made is in Bowdoin's own handwriting; but the date is only "Boston, 1788," without either month or day. The letter states, however, that it was written while the Boston bells were ringing to signalize the public joy that Maryland had adopted the Constitution of the United States. Now, this event occurred on the 28th of April, 1788, — Maryland having been the seventh State to adopt the Constitution. Massachusetts was the sixth. The letter was therefore written about the first of May, 1788, — allowing three or four days for the news to reach Boston from Annapolis. South Carolina and New Hampshire soon followed, and completed the necessary nine States.

It will be observed that Bowdoin says to Franklin that, if the Constitution is adopted, "he hopes to congratulate him a century hence, as well as in the course of the present year." This was in playful allusion to the conjectures which these old philosophers cherished and sometimes expressed, that they might meet each other in another world and discern clearly the effects of what they had done in this world. The century is now just completed; and we may almost imagine Franklin and Bowdoin, if it be permitted them to look down upon their country, exchanging congratulations in the skies on "the felicities of the firm and energetic government" which the Constitution has secured.

But now for the little anecdote. It happened that in 1836 I was Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements and Chief Marshal for the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the foundation of Harvard College. It being thought desirable to obtain the autographs of all the alumni and guests assembled on that occasion, little blank-books were placed on the dinner-tables, with pens and ink, and all persons present were requested to write their names. These little books were bound together under my direction, and finally deposited in the College Library, where the volume now is.

But the oldest living alumnus at that time was Paine Wingate, of the Class of 1759, who was then in his ninety-ninth year. His age and infirmities rendered it impossible for him to be at the celebration at Cambridge; but I was unwilling to lose his signature for the volume of autographs, and so I made a journey to his home in Stratham, New Hampshire, about seven miles out from Portsmouth. The venerable man

was on his bed, completely "bedridden;" but his wife informed me that he would be glad to receive me in his chamber, and there I spent a most interesting hour with him. After telling him all about the Harvard Centennial, I succeeded in getting him to write his name for the volume of autographs, in which it may now be seen. He wrote a separate autograph for myself, which I still have. On my alluding to the fact that he was a member of the first Senate of the United States, he told his wife to bring him the old original printed Journals of that Congress,—the copies which he had received as a member, at New York, in 1789. He then asked me to read over to him the names of his colleagues in that memorable body. I read them to him accordingly,—Rufus King and Robert Morris, Richard Henry Lee and Caleb Strong, Oliver Ellsworth and Ralph Izard, and all the rest, not forgetting John Langdon, the colleague of Paine Wingate, who was the President *pro tempore* of the first Senate until John Adams was installed as Vice-President of the United States. There were but twenty-two Senators in all, from only eleven States,—North Carolina and Rhode Island having no Senators as yet. I went through the whole list, and at the end of each name the old man repeated the name in a clear, ringing tone, and asked most eagerly, "Where is he?" On my saying that he was dead, he exclaimed, "Is he dead?" "And is he dead?" "And is he dead, too?"

It had escaped his enfeebled memory that he himself had long been the last survivor of that first Senate of the United States; and I can remember but few things in my life more impressive than the hollow and sepulchral tones of Paine Wingate's voice as he repeated, "Is he dead?" "And is he dead?" "And is he dead, too?" after each name of his old colleagues. They were as pathetic and as dramatic as the exclamations of Philoctetes, on being told successively of the deaths of Achilles and Ajax and Patroclus, in the great tragedy of Sophocles.

He insisted on giving to me those old copies of the Journals from which I had read to him, together with an original copy of Alexander Hamilton's celebrated Report on the Finances, and I have long ago deposited one or more of these documents in the Library of this Society.

There was one thing, however, which Paine Wingate re-

membered, and only one of any interest, and that was that he dined with WASHINGTON on the day of his first inauguration as President of the United States, on the 30th of April, 1789, — the day which is about to be commemorated so worthily in New York. But he only remembered the fact, and could recall none of the incidents of the occasion.

Paine Wingate had entered his ninety-ninth year when I saw him, and there was great hope that he might complete his century; but he died in March, 1838, before he had entered his hundredth year. His wife, who was a sister of Col. Timothy Pickering, lived eight months and eight days over her hundred years, and received company on her hundredth birthday in her wedding-dress. She was in her ninety-fifth year when I made this visit to Stratham, and was moving about with great activity, showing off her husband as a wonder, and seemingly unconscious that she was really the greater wonder of the two.

I had seen Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, at his own house in Baltimore, in 1832; and now I had seen the last surviving member of the first Senate of the United States, who had dined with Washington on the day of his first inauguration, when our Constitutional Government was originally organized and its machinery set in motion. That was a great day, the 30th of April, 1789; and I wish it could have been adopted as the Inauguration Day for our second century, instead of the 4th of March, agreeably to the amendment to the Constitution which has been twice adopted by the present Senate.

Mr. GOODELL called attention to a painting which had been consigned to him for identification by Mr. B. F. Stevens, of London. It represents the Constitutional Convention of Virginia in 1829–1830, James Monroe presiding; while before him are James Madison, Chief Justice Marshall, and others. It was painted by Catlin, the famous painter of the Indians, and is now on its way to Richmond.

The Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP rose and said: —

Our Vice-President, Dr. Deane, will concur with me heartily, I am sure, in lamenting that our late valued friend, the Hon. Hugh Blair Grigsby, of Virginia, could not have lived and

been with us here to-day as one of our Honorary Members, to examine this painting with us, and to tell us who were the men depicted on the canvas. He often spoke to me with pride of having been a member of the Virginia Convention of 1830. He was the very youngest member, and was one of the last survivors of that eminent body. He delivered an Historical Address, — in 1848, I think, — giving an account of its proceedings and of all his associates. He would have been able to tell us the names of the whole assembly, and to identify the likenesses of all whom the artist has undertaken to portray.

For myself, I can recognize but few of them. Madison, Monroe, Marshall, Tazewell, and perhaps John Randolph, are readily distinguished by those who have seen their portraits, or by those, if there be any here besides myself, who have seen them in life. Of Madison I can speak from personal acquaintance. It was my privilege — and I count it as one of the greatest privileges of my life — to spend a day or two with James Madison, under his own roof at Montpelier, in 1832. He was then just entering his eighty-third year; but his faculties were entirely unimpaired, and he was one of the most instructive and charming persons with whom I have ever had the good fortune to converse. It was only two years after the meeting of the very Convention which the painting before us depicts. That Convention, and the Legislature of Virginia which soon followed it, had both dealt much with the question of African slavery, and Mr. Madison's own mind had been turned intently upon that topic. I remember well his saying to me that the debates in the Convention and in the Legislature had given him the first strong encouragement, the first confident belief, that domestic slavery was not to be a perpetual institution, and that some mode would be devised and adopted for bringing it to an end. I cannot forget how impressively he added, substantially, "You see me here surrounded by these black servants and laborers. Heaven knows how willingly I would emancipate them all. But even if the laws of the State would permit me to do so, it would be a cruelty to them of which I could not be guilty. They are as much attached to this old homestead as I am, or any of my family. I could not rend asunder their old associations, break up their little homes and fami-

lies, and turn them out upon the precarious mercies of the world."

I forbear from attempting to recall more of my interview with Mr. Madison, nearly sixty years ago. I gave some account of it in a letter to my late excellent friend, the Hon. William C. Rives, of Virginia, in 1856; and that letter is printed in the Appendix to one of my volumes of Addresses and Speeches.¹ I have risen now, without any preparation, in response to the call of our valued associate, Mr. Goodell, only to bear witness to the authenticity and interest of the painting which he has placed before us, and which I rejoice to know is to be sent at once to our historical friends in Virginia.

Mr. ARTHUR LORD stated that it had been proposed to discontinue the publication of the Province Laws, which this Society would deplore, and he suggested that they should express their opinion upon the matter.

Judge HOAR said that he hoped this opinion would be expressed, because lawyers and students of history expected that the work would be completed by the State, as much so as if it had been undertaken by any publisher, and that the Bar Association and other societies intended to remonstrate.

Dr. ELLIS quoted Gov. Emory Washburn's opinion of the extreme value of these records; and at his suggestion, which was seconded by the Hon. R. C. Winthrop, Judge Devens, Judge Lowell, and Mr. Solomon Lincoln were appointed a committee to present to the committee of the Legislature reasons why the printing and editing of the Province Laws should be continued and completed.

A new serial, including the proceedings from June, 1888, to January, 1889, was ready for members at this meeting.

¹ Vol. ii. pp. 691-695.